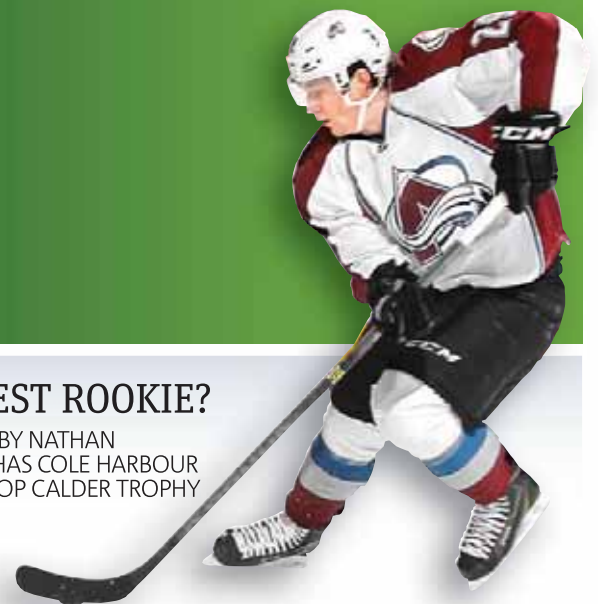


HALIFAX metro®



Released offender breaks terms

Man picked up at liquor store after having killed two people due to drunk driving **PAGE 3**

'They should be accountable'

Students at Saint Mary's University react to offensive tweets allegedly sent out by football players **PAGE 4**

More safety than art

Local photographer snapping pics of distracted drivers after nearly being hit at crosswalk **PAGE 6**

NHL'S BEST ROOKIE?

STRONG PLAY BY NATHAN MACKINNON HAS COLE HARBOUR FORWARD A TOP CALDER TROPHY CONTENDER **PAGE 18**

Sense of relief 'palpable': Crown

Amber Kirwan.
Christopher Alexander Falconer gets life in prison after 3-week trial

A conviction in the slaying of Amber Kirwan cannot erase the pain still felt by her loved ones, the Crown said Tuesday as the young woman's killer was found guilty of first-degree murder.

A jury convicted Christopher Alexander Falconer on the second day of deliberations at Nova Scotia Supreme Court in Pictou following three weeks of testimony.

Family members sat silently and Kirwan's mother dabbed her eyes with a tissue as Falconer, 31, was given an automatic sentence of life in prison with no parole eligibility for 25 years.

"Their sense of relief I believe was palpable, but this is a tragedy that I don't think they'll ever get past," Crown attorney Bill Gorman said after the verdict.

Falconer, a stocky, bespectacled man, pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder in the death of Kirwan. The 19-year-

old aspiring nurse vanished after leaving a pool hall in New Glasgow on Oct. 9, 2011.

Her naked, bound remains were discovered face down in a clandestine grave about a month later in Heathbell.

Falconer pleaded guilty in a separate case to second-degree murder as a teenager for strangling a cab driver in 1998. He was 15 at the time of that murder, but was ordered to stand trial as an adult. He was granted full parole after serving 12 years in prison.

Falconer did not react when the verdict was read. His parents, sitting two rows behind him, sighed heavily. They declined comment outside court.

Kirwan's mother, Marjorie Kirwan, was asked by a reporter

Despite the conviction, there are a number of questions that remain unanswered, including how Kirwan was abducted, where she was killed and when.

There's also the question of why Falconer killed Kirwan, a woman he told police he had never met. Gorman suggested during the trial that it was simply for "fun."

Defence lawyer Mike Taylor said he believes the jury's decision was fair but it came as somewhat of a surprise to his client.

"Obviously I would've preferred for Mr. Falconer that it was different, but the evidence was there and I can see them reaching the conclusion that they reached," Taylor said.

Quoted

"He's disappointed, obviously. I think he was thinking that there was a decent chance of acquittal because of the time that they were taking." Defence lawyer Mike Taylor

ter whether she was pleased with the verdict.

"Very," she replied, before retreating to a private room with her family.

He said it was too soon to consider an appeal, but added that "an appeal of a jury decision is extremely difficult."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



A jury has found Chris Falconer guilty of first-degree murder in the death of Amber Kirwan, inset.

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE; INSET: FACEBOOK



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See dealer for details.

High-risk offender found in liquor store: Police

Michael Gerard Cooper.

The man who killed a couple in a crash while drunk is accused of breaking the conditions of his release by walking into an NSLC outlet



PHILIP CROUCHER
philip.croucher@metronews.ca

A man deemed a high-risk offender after killing two people while driving drunk has been arrested for allegedly trying to buy booze from a Halifax liquor store.

Michael Gerard Cooper, 55, was taken into custody by police at 6990 Mumford Rd. near a Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation outlet Tuesday around 11 a.m.

Cooper, who appeared in Halifax provincial court on Tuesday afternoon and was remanded to the East Coast Forensic Hospital in Burnside for a fitness assessment, is facing two charges of breaching conditions.

He is due back in court on Feb. 6.

Mike Maloney, spokesperson for the NSLC, said a staff member noticed Cooper approaching the store and then called police when he came inside.

Maloney said Cooper didn't try to buy anything, but he was in there for about five minutes.

"He was chatting on the phone and was quite noisy about it," said Maloney.

Cooper's release conditions included a ban on buying or consuming alcohol and driving. Maloney said he was arrested by police at a nearby bus stop after leaving the



Michael Gerard Cooper makes an appearance at Halifax provincial court on Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Assessment

Defence claims brain injury

During Cooper's court appearance on Tuesday, defence lawyer John Black told the judge his client suffers from "fairly significant deficits as a result of a brain

injury" he received in the 2004 collision.

Judge Barbara Beach agreed to send Cooper to the East Coast Forensic Hospital for an assessment to determine if his injury has left him incapable of appreciating the nature and quality of his actions or of knowing that they were wrong. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

store.

"We are absolutely thrilled with the level of commitment our staff showed in this case,"

Maloney said.

Halifax Regional Police spokesman Const. Pierre Bourdages said the person

who called police handled the situation very well.

"He did the right thing," Bourdages said. "Instead of approaching the individual they called police and we were able to arrest him."

Bourdages said he doesn't know what Cooper's motivation was for allegedly entering the liquor store, but it doesn't really matter as they went against his conditions.

"The fact he entered a liquor store, right there, is a breach of his conditions," said Bourdages.

Cooper, 55, was released from a federal penitentiary in New Brunswick last Tuesday after serving a full seven-year

sentence for killing Angela Smits, 19, and her boyfriend Michael MacLean, 20, in May 2004 following an accident in Cape Breton.

After Cooper's conviction in 2007, the Parole Board of Canada said he told it he would likely continue drinking and driving, which prompted the board to deny him an early release.

Cooper has since elected to live in HRM, prompting police in Halifax last week to issue a notification to residents under the high-risk offender information protocol — typically reserved for violent criminals or sex offenders.

'They very likely saved someone's life'

Gerry Smits, father of Angela Smits, said he wasn't surprised when he was notified Tuesday by RCMP that Cooper had attempted to purchase alcohol.

He and his wife Patricia had requested the NSLC, Alcohol and Gaming Division and

the Nova Scotia Utility and Review take steps to prevent Cooper from purchasing alcohol. The NSLC agreed to distribute his photo to its stores, something for which Smits said he was grateful.

"I gave him 48 hours, so he went over that," he said. "I

thanked them for it because if it wasn't for that, he probably would have walked in there and walked back out and nobody would have known the difference. It was a good thing on their part and they very likely saved someone's life."

PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO



Angela Smits, 19, and her boyfriend, Michael MacLean, 20. CONTRIBUTED

SMU students react: 'It's completely unacceptable'

Saint Mary's. Ten football players now suspended over allegedly tweeting racist, sexually violent messages



HALEY RYAN
haley.ryan@metronews.ca

With 10 players now suspended from the Saint Mary's University football team for allegedly sending sexist, racist and hateful tweets, some students on campus say they're happy to see the university take action but add this isn't strictly a SMU problem.

"They should be accountable for their actions. Everyone should, especially at this age," said Adele Joyce, a fourth-year student at Saint Mary's, on Tuesday.

One of the player's tweets allegedly said: "to that b**ch that bit me last night. Hope your dead in a ditch. you are scum."

Another player used a gay slur, while more than one retweeted racist and sexist comments.

The tweets were made

public after an online publication produced by students at the University of King's College School of Journalism cited a number of tweets from accounts it said belonged to football team members.

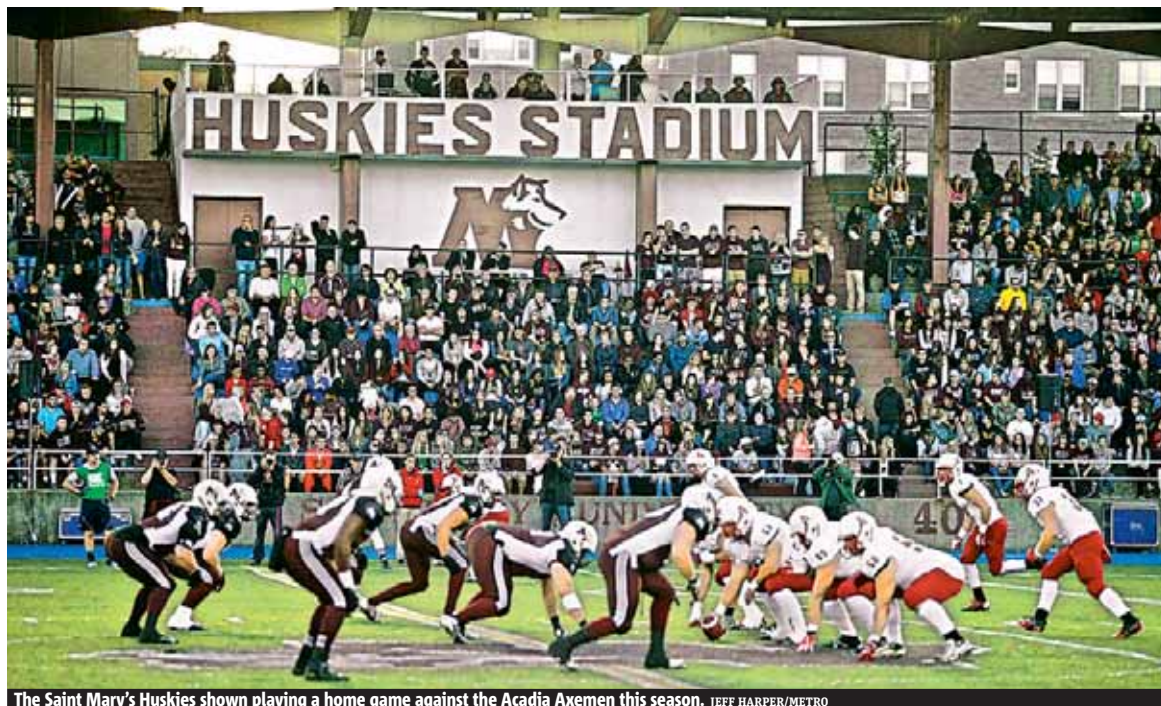
Joyce said although the attention could hurt the school's reputation, it's good the administration is showing they take the comments seriously.

First-year student Jacob Schlinder said the suspensions were necessary in light of September's infamous student-led chant that led to media attention from across Canada.

"It's completely unacceptable," said Schlinder about the tweets. "They should be ambassadors for our school ... putting that in the public really gives us a bad name."

But Schlinder said both incidents could have happened at any university, and are mostly due to a "young male culture" issue.

While it could be difficult to get athletes into a group to discuss sexual violence, Schlinder said it's important to show men it's not OK to condone rape or sexism because they tend to perpetuate it most.



The Saint Mary's Huskies shown playing a home game against the Acadia Axemen this season. JEFF HARPER/METRO

'Disappointing'

Prof surprised

A law professor who issued recommendations following a chant that glorified sex with underage girls at Saint Mary's University said Tuesday he's disappointed after members of the school's football team allegedly sent hateful, racist and sexist tweets.

Wayne MacKay of Dalhousie University said he was surprised to hear of the



University drew national attention over the student-led chant.

"Not only was there the sexist and violence against women element to it, which was front and centre in the Saint Mary's study, but also

offensive content contained in the tweets just months after Saint Mary's

racism, homophobia — a whole range of things," said MacKay in an interview Tuesday.

"It's particularly disappointing that this would happen ... so soon after the media focus on Saint Mary's."

MacKay wrote a report released in December that contained 20 recommendations on cultural changes to prevent sexual violence and inspire respectful behaviour at Saint Mary's University — a report the school endorsed. **HALEY RYAN/METRO**

#SMUplayersrespond

Responses from team members via Twitter:

- Saint Mary's Huskies linebacker Keith Langille. "I regret my actions and will consider the implications of what I post in the future. I respect all cultures and did not mean

any hostility by it."

- Saint Mary's Huskies quarterback Ben Rossong. "Yes some young men were WRONG...But... Blown. Out. Of. Proportion. #Context #LookAtOtherSchools #Frustrating #Mistakes"

"The biggest struggle would be to actually have males willing to be vulnerable," Schlinder said.

Spokesperson Steve Proctor said Tuesday the university will conduct an investigation if a player denies he sent the tweet.

The university may decide to take academic discipline, Proctor said, but right now the players are off the team until April, with the possibility of missing part of next year.

Proctor said the length of suspensions will be up to the athletics director to decide after he meets with the players.

If you want to go

Tickets for the 2015 Ford World Men's Championship will go on sale later this year.

Rock on: City to host world men's curling

Halifax will host the world's top men's curling teams in 2015.

The World Curling Federation and Canadian Curling Association have announced Halifax won hosting rights for the Ford World Men's Curling Championship, to be played at the Metro Centre from March 28 to April 5 next year.

It's the first time the world men's championship has been

played in Nova Scotia.

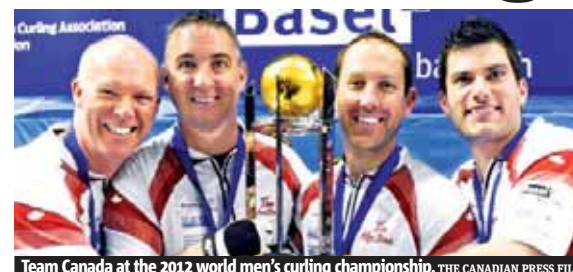
"We are delighted to be returning to the province of Nova Scotia for a World Curling Championship, the first since the World Junior Men's Curling Championship was held in Dartmouth in 1986," said World Curling Federation president Kate Caithness.

Halifax has hosted several major curling events in the

past, including three Tim Hortons Brier events, the Scotties Tournament of Hearts and the

Tim Hortons Roar of the Rings Canadian Curling Trials in 2005.

"Halifax has delivered the goods in the past when it comes to hosting CCA Season of Champions curling events, and I see no reason why the 2015 Ford Worlds would be any different," said CCA Chief Executive Officer Greg Stremmler. **METRO**



Team Canada at the 2012 world men's curling championship. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

HRM livability. Council supports new initiatives

Halifax regional councillors voted unanimously in support of the three initiatives designed to improve the health and "livability" of HRM.

The recommendations emerged from the "Mayor's conversation on healthy and livable communities" — a meeting of residents involved in active living hosted by Mayor Mike Savage last October.

A staff report recommends that council seek improvements to bike connectivity on the Halifax side of the MacDonald Bridge; develop and implement an urban orchard pilot project; and work with business improvement dis-



Mike Savage
METRO

tricts to improve accessibility.

City staff said there are no budget implications for those initial initiatives, but Savage told council

that wouldn't be the case in the long term.

"If we're seriously going to look at things like accessibility, it's going to cost us as a municipality," he said. "And the question is, is that something we should spend? In my view, it is." **HALEY RYAN/METRO**

\$1M in renovations

Centennial Pool set to reopen

The Centennial Pool will be open to the public on Wednesday after undergoing more than \$1 million in renovations.

The three-phase project

updated the heating system by installing solar panels, overhauled the mechanical infrastructure of the swimming pool and added in-floor heating and modern fixtures to the change rooms — which are also now fully accessible.

A release suggests the renovations will extend pool's life by 20 years. **METRO**

Municipal museum approved for waterfront

'Great tourist attraction.' Councillors agree to have old Dartmouth City Hall building sold as surplus



RUTH DAVENPORT
ruth.davenport@metronews.ca

Halifax regional councillors have agreed that a municipal museum should return to Dartmouth, and help establish a "cultural cluster" of destinations on the waterfront.

A staff report tabled Tuesday

Quoted

"I think this is very important to the social and historical fabric of a community that there be a museum." Mayor Mike Savage

day stated the former Dartmouth City Hall building at 90 Alderney Dr. is unsuitable for a museum, based on a structural assessment, and recommended referring it for a review.

Coun. Gloria McCluskey secured enough support to amend the motion to have the building declared surplus, and have proceeds from its sale used to construct a museum for thousands of HRM artifacts currently languishing in a Burnside warehouse.

"The people who have been in charge of these artifacts ... will be very happy they will have a home," she said. "What a great tourist attraction that will be."

There was some disagreement about limiting the location of a future museum to Dartmouth only, but supporters pointed out that a museum was promised to the Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society after a lengthy debate in 2009.



Halifax regional council is shown meeting in this file photo. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Coun. Tim Outhit also suggested using one of HRM's existing buildings, rather than constructing something new, but McCluskey pointed out museums require specific structural features not commonly found in commercial buildings.

Councillors also supported the idea of using HRM's existing property near Alder-

ney Gate for the museum, which would create a "cultural cluster" incorporating the Alderney Theater, the plaza and the Craig Gallery.

"Certainly I feel like ... having that weight of that many cultural organizations in one place does create opportunities and that's why that cultural cluster is important," said Coun. Wayne Mason.

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Asphyxiation. Couple arrested in slayings of mother and son

A woman and her common-law husband were arrested Tuesday in Nova Scotia and charged with killing her ex-husband and his mother, who died three years apart in Ontario, police said.

Caleb Harrison, 41, was found dead last August in a home in Mississauga, Ont. — the same home where his mother Bridget Harrison, 63, died in 2010.

At the time her death was classified as suspicious, but when officers started investigating Caleb Harrison's death, they determined both were homicides and both mother and son were asphyxiated.

Police have now also reopened the investigation into the 2009 death of Caleb Harrison's father, William Harrison, who also died in the same home.

Investigators originally determined he died of natural causes, but they are taking another look and are treating his cause of death as undetermined.

Peel Regional Police Insp. George Koekoek said Melissa Merritt, 33, and her common-

Court

Melissa Merritt, 33, and Christopher Fattore, 36, are to appear in court Wednesday morning in Halifax and then are expected to be sent back to Ontario to face two counts each of first-degree murder.

law husband, Christopher Fattore, 36, were arrested Tuesday near Bridgewater, where they moved shortly after Caleb Harrison's death.

Merritt and Harrison had two children and split up in 2005, which is also the year she and Fattore met, Koekoek said at a news conference.

Merritt was previously convicted of the parental abduction of the children she had with Harrison — an abduction Koekoek said occurred around the same time as Harrison's father's death.

Fattore and Merritt had children of their own and they are all being cared for, Koekoek said. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Alcohol. Driver four times over legal limit: Police

Police in Halifax say they have arrested a drunk driver who was four times more than the legal limit of alcohol.

The RCMP say they saw a green Volvo Monday morning going well below the posted speed limit on the Bedford Bypass near Magazine Hill. The car was pulled over and police

arrested the man for impaired driving. Breath samples were taken and police allege the reading for the 68-year-old was four times above the legal allowed limit of 80 milligrams.

The driver has been charged with impaired driving and will appear Dartmouth provincial court on March 5. **METRO**

Barrington Passage

Man suffers serious burns in afternoon fire

A man was airlifted to hospital in Halifax on Tuesday after suffering serious burns in an afternoon fire.

Firefighters were called to the blaze on Highway 3 in Barrington Passage at 12:50 p.m. after a mobile home that was under construction caught fire.

Police say a 69-year-old man suffered serious burns and was airlifted to the QEII hospital in Halifax by a LifeFlight helicopter.

A cause of the fire is under investigation. **METRO**

Yarmouth County

Accused released on conditions

A Yarmouth County man who has been in custody since his December arrest after the remains of an elderly man were discovered inside a Grove Road home has been released from custody.

In provincial court Tuesday the judge accepted a list of release conditions for Timothy Stanley Adams.

Adams is charged with one count of neglecting to perform duties with reference to burial and one count of offering indignities to human remains. **YARMOUTH VANGUARD**



Ullly Bleil poses for a photo near a crosswalk on St. Margaret's Bay Road on Tuesday. Inset: One of Bleil's distracted driving shots.
MAIN: JEFF HARPER/METRO; INSET: COURTESY ULLY BLEIL

Texting and driving? You may get snapped

Taking aim.

Photographer says Halifax needs to talk distracted driving



HALEY RYAN
haley.ryan@metronews.ca

A Halifax photographer is hoping to get people that text or use the phone while driving to see their actions through a different lens.

Last Monday, Ullly Bleil said he was using a crosswalk on the corner of Joseph Howe Drive and Bayers Road when he noticed a car coming towards him that wasn't slowing down.

It looks like another significant snowfall is heading our way.

Environment Canada issued a special weather statement for all of the Halifax Regional Municipality Tuesday for a storm Wednesday that is forecast to bring be-

Quoted

"The look on their face is priceless."

Ullly Bleil, on his photos of distracted drivers.

"I thought 'This car is just not going to stop,'" Bleil said. "I had to jump out of the way, and the car did stop ... but most of her car was over the crosswalk."

Bleil said that's when he noticed the woman driving the car was texting, and was concerned because it was a rainy night.

He took a photo of her through the window of her car, but Bleil said she drove away before he could catch the licence plate.

The photo is the most recent in a series Bleil has been

shooting since the summer-time, just before he said he was hit by a car on his bicycle while using a crosswalk.

Although Bleil said the man who hit him was speeding, it's important to talk about distracted driving in light of the recent rash of pedestrian collisions in HRM.

Some of Bleil's photos show close-ups of hands using cell phones, and Bleil said he would keep working on the project if he knew it would make people aware they're doing something dangerous.

Bleil said he's used to the strange looks he gets when he snaps a photo of someone driving and using the phone.

"Some people would want to stop and punch me out, other people just get like 'What's going on,'" Bleil said.

Halifax Regional Police spokesman Const. Pierre Bourdages said besides illegal distractions like cell phones, drivers also aren't focused on the road if they're having a conversation on a hands-free device, or singing along to the radio.

"Then you're more prone to have an accident or hit someone," Bourdages said. "Drive like there's someone at every intersection. Look for these people that might want to cross."

What would a hump day be without some snow?

It looks like another significant snowfall is heading our way.

Environment Canada issued a special weather statement for all of the Halifax Regional Municipality Tuesday for a storm Wednesday that is forecast to bring be-

tween 10 and 15 centimetres of snow.

The statement also said higher amounts were possible depending on the track of the storm.

"The public is advised to monitor future forecasts and warnings as warnings may be

required," the statement read.

If the storm comes as forecast, it would mark the second storm in exactly one week.

Last Wednesday, HRM was hit with a major blizzard that brought most parts of the municipality 25 centimetres of snow. **METRO**

Weatherman says:

According to Environment Canada, the heaviest snow is forecast for the morning, and will eventually taper off by evening.

Financial audit ordered

'The loans haven't been paid in a long time.'

Provincial Exhibition Commission not paying down its debt, government says

Nova Scotia's agriculture minister has ordered an audit for the Provincial Exhibition Commission, saying the troubled organization owes the province about \$450,000 but hasn't made any loan payments and has refused to hand over financial data.

Keith Colwell told a news conference Tuesday his department will hire an accounting firm after numerous unsuccessful attempts by the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board to get financial information from the commission. "The loans haven't been paid in a long time and no attempts have been made to pay them," he said.

The non-profit group owns and operates a 26-hectare exhibition facility in Bible Hill where the annual five-day Provincial Exhibition has been held since 1946. The August event typically attracts about 40,000 people.

The exhibition grounds are

also home to the Truro Raceway, a harness racing track that was threatened with closure last year.

Colwell said the commission needs to be run more efficiently and the government won't forgive its debt. The commission's board of directors recently resigned and a new board has been appointed.

"The new board has made some positive moves and needs a clean slate to move forward," Colwell said.

Bruce Kennedy, the new board chairman, said the commission also owes suppliers about \$350,000. He said the biggest bill is for fees owed to other harness racing tracks that provide video feeds for their races.

Kennedy said the new board has discovered "inconsistencies" with the way the organization has been run, but the minister said there was no indication of impropriety.

The new board has already cut some costs, having recognized the operation has too many employees and is spending too much heating three barns that have since been closed, Kennedy said.

Despite the financial problems, Kennedy said he expects harness racing to resume in April. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Mediation? Agreed

Nova Scotia school bus strike ends

More than 400 unionized bus drivers and support staff with the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board in northern Nova Scotia have agreed to end their strike.

School buses stopped running after workers went on strike Monday, leaving about 17,000 students to find alternate transportation.

A statement on the board's website says both sides have agreed to move to mediation.

It says some workers will return to work today while buses will return to their normal routes Wednesday morning.

The workers are represented by Local 3890 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

The Chignecto-Central Regional School Board is the second largest school board in the province. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

'Shameful'

Veterans call for minister to be fired

A Cape Breton veteran who suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder is calling for the resignation of Veterans Affairs Minister Julian Fantino.

Ron Clarke of Georges River was among a group of veterans who expected to meet with Fantino at his government headquarters in Ottawa on Tuesday. However,

when the delegation arrived they were told Fantino had been called away on business.

"I would like to call for Mr. Fantino's resignation, his resignation or fired," said Clarke. "What he (did) today, what he (did) to us today is unbelievable, unacceptable and shameful."

Chris Aylward, national vice-president of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, described Fantino's response on Tuesday as "absolutely appalling." **CAPE BRETON POST**

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Agriculture Minister Keith Colwell fields questions about the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition and Truro Raceway at a news conference in Halifax on Tuesday. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Muslim group demands PM apologize for attempted 'smear'

National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) executive director Ihsaan Gardee speaks during a press conference with NGO representatives and community leaders on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Tuesday. NCCM is demanding an apology from Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his chief spokesman for a comment it says linked the organization to a terrorist group. The council had criticized the inclusion of a controversial rabbi in Harper's delegation that went to the Middle East last week. "Rather than responding to our legitimate concerns, the PMO's director of communications attacked us and attempted to smear our name by claiming NCCM had 'documented ties to a terrorist organization such as Hamas,'" Gardee said Tuesday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

L'Isle-Verte

Death toll raised in seniors' home fire

Quebec provincial police said Tuesday that 17 are confirmed dead and 15 remain missing after the blaze that ravaged Résidence du Havre in L'Isle-Verte last Thursday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Veterans Affairs

Ex-soldiers protest office closures

A group of ex-soldiers was rebuffed Tuesday by Stephen Harper, who played down the impact of impending Veterans Affairs regional office closures. Veteran Roy Lamore said the closures "will put veterans at risk." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Eavesdropping agency

Official calls for more transparency

The government's electronic eavesdropping agency should tell Canadians more about what it's doing, says privacy commissioner Chantal Bernier.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pipeline blast

The heat's back on for Manitobans

Natural gas was back again Tuesday in Manitoba communities left without heat following a pipeline explosion. TransCanada said service was restored to most overnight Monday and to the rest by Tuesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada ready for a fight in food dispute with U.S.

Labelling. Agriculture minister makes last-ditch attempt to make American lawmakers change rules, says he'll return case to WTO

Canada's agriculture minister says he's hoping to avoid an all-out trade war with the U.S. over food labelling. But Gerry Ritz warns that, if there is a war, he's prepared to fight it.

Ritz has launched a last-minute appeal to American lawmakers to change U.S. food labelling rules through a farm bill that could come to a first

vote as early as Wednesday.

"I'm hoping that cooler minds will prevail, that the pressure that the American industry is bringing to bear in the next day or two will cause some legislators to step back," said Ritz.

Canada has long complained that the so-called Country of Origin Labelling provisions adopted by the U.S. government in 2008 hurt meat industries on both sides of the border.

Hopes for a settlement of the dispute were dashed Monday when U.S. lawmakers reached a deal that did not include changes to the labelling requirements.

Failing any last-minute

amendments, Ritz says Canada will return the dispute to the World Trade Organization, with arguments in the case expected to begin Feb. 18.

"That's a good thing," said Ritz. "It starts to move it

ahead."

If the WTO rules in Canada's favour, tariffs could be imposed by early 2015 on U.S. exports of everything from beef and pork products to grains and fresh fruits. THE CANADIAN PRESS

In the meantime

Ritz says Canada will support industry stakeholders in the U.S. and Mexico in a bid to obtain a court injunction preventing the U.S. government from implementing the bill.

- The Canadian Cattlemen's Association said it too would support taking the

fight to the WTO.

- Country-of-origin labelling rules are blamed for complicating the import of meat and livestock into the U.S., driving up the cost of business, and causing an estimated \$1 billion a year in losses.

Quebec. Four former provincial officers face fraud, theft charges

The former head of the Quebec provincial police force and three former senior officers have been ordered to appear in court next month on charges of fraud, theft and breach of trust.

Charges filed in Montreal on Tuesday name Richard Deschênes, the force's former director-general, former assistant director Steven Chabot, Alfred Tremblay, a former assistant director of investigations, and Jean Audette, another ex-assistant director in charge of investigations.

All four have been summoned to appear in court on Feb. 13. The date for the appearance was noted in the charges.

The group is charged with fraud and breach of trust in

the performance of their duties and stealing more than \$5,000 from the Quebec government and the provincial police force.

The charges say the acts allegedly committed by Deschênes, Chabot and Tremblay were committed on or around March 17, 2010, while those allegedly committed by Audette happened between Oct. 27, 2011, and Oct. 15, 2012.

Deschênes stepped down unexpectedly and was replaced in October 2012 by Mario Laprise, who issued a statement Tuesday after the charges were made public.

He said the force has instituted measures to review management policies and rules governing expenses.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Obama focuses on economic security in State of the Union



U.S. President Barack Obama delivers the State of the Union address at the U.S. Capitol on Tuesday in Washington, D.C. ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES

Seeking to energize his sluggish second term, U.S. President Barack Obama vowed Tuesday night in his State of the Union address to sidestep Congress "whenever and wherever" necessary to narrow economic disparities between rich and poor. He unveiled an array of modest executive actions to increase the minimum wage for federal contract workers and make it easier for millions of low-income Americans to save for retirement.

"America does not stand still and neither do I," Obama

declared in his prime-time address before a joint session of Congress and millions of Americans watching on television.

Declaring 2104 a "year of action," Obama also sought to convince an increasingly skeptical public that he still wields power in Washington even if he can't crack through the divisions in Congress.

Obama's proposals for action by lawmakers were slim and largely focused on old ideas that have gained little traction over the past year. He pressed Congress to revive

a stalled immigration overhaul, pass an across-the-board increase in the federal minimum wage and expand access to early childhood education — all ideas that gained little traction after he proposed them last year. The president's one new legislation proposal calls for expanding an income tax credit for workers without children.

Pivoting briefly to foreign policy, Obama reaffirmed that the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan will formally conclude at the end of this year. But he said a small contingent of American

forces could be left behind if the Afghan government quickly signs a bilateral security agreement, a prospect that looks increasingly uncertain.

The president also warned lawmakers in both parties against passing new economic sanctions against Iran while the U.S. and international partners are holding nuclear negotiations with the Islamic republic. He renewed his commitment to veto sanctions legislation if it passes, arguing that a new round of penalties would upend the sensitive diplomacy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine PM resigns; parliament overturns harsh anti-protest laws

PM-less. President offered the position to opposition leader Arseniy Yatsenyuk, but he refused the post

In back-to-back moves aimed at defusing Ukraine's political crisis, the prime minister resigned Tuesday and parliament repealed anti-protest laws that had set off violent clashes between protesters and police.

The two developments were significant concessions to the anti-government protesters who have fought sporadically with police for the last 10 days after two months of peaceful around-the-clock demonstrations. The protests erupted after President Viktor Yanukovich decided to turn toward Russia for a bailout loan instead of signing a deal with the European Union, but have since morphed into a general plea for more human rights, less corruption and more democracy in this nation of 45 million.

Quoted

"We have repealed all the laws against which the whole country rose up."

Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Ukrainian lawmaker and a key figure in the opposition

The departure of Prime Minister Mykola Azarov removes one of the officials most disliked by the opposition forces whose protests have turned parts of Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital, into a barricaded maze.

However, Azarov's spokesman told the Interfax news agency that deputy Prime Minister Serhiy Arbuzov will assume temporary leadership of the Cabinet in the meantime. Such a move is unlikely to please the opposition, as Arbuzov is widely viewed as just another staunch ally of Yanukovich.

Other key issues remain unresolved in Ukraine's political crisis, including the opposi-



Riot police warm themselves by a bonfire near the Ukrainian parliament in Kyiv on Tuesday.

SERGEI CHUZAVKOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

tion's repeated demands for Yanukovich to resign and for a new election to be held.

Azarov's resignation came just before the opening of a special parliament session that repealed anti-protest laws that had set off violent clashes between protesters and police.

Yanukovich earlier this

month had pushed through new laws to crack down on protests and raise prison sentences for creating disorder. The laws also prohibited people from wearing helmets and gas masks, which many have done for fear that riot police would try to violently disperse protesters.

Parliament will consider an amnesty measure Wednesday for scores of arrested protesters. But Yanukovich has said the amnesty is only possible if demonstrators clear the streets and vacate the buildings they now occupy — a condition that is probably unacceptable to many. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Unwelcome

Canada's reaction

Senior Ukrainian officials will be barred from Canada as a response to the continuing crackdown on protests in that country, Immigration Minister Chris Alexander said Tuesday. "We will restrict entry to Canada for key Ukrainian government officials that have been responsible for the repression and silencing of opposition voices," he said. Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird said it's a symbolic effort, but sends a disapproving message to the government in Ukraine. Baird says tougher measures could come if the Ukrainian government fails to respond to popular demands for freedom and democracy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

National emergency

Floods ravage Bolivia

Bolivia's government has declared a national emergency to deal with flooding that has claimed at least 30 lives and forced some 21,000 families from their homes over the past two months. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Caged

Morsi defiant at start of trial

Egypt's toppled President Mohammed Morsi stood alone in a soundproof glass-encased metal cage at the start of a new trial Tuesday wearing a white prison uniform, pacing and shouting at the judge: "Who are you? Tell me!" Morsi is on trial with 130 others, including Muslim Brotherhood leaders, and militants from the Palestinian Hamas group and Lebanon's Hezbollah, over charges related to the prison breaks at the height of the 18-day 2011 uprising against his predecessor Hosni Mubarak.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Amid protests

Thailand to hold elections

Thailand's government announced Tuesday it will go ahead with an election this weekend despite an opposition boycott, months of street protests and the likelihood of more violence in the country's political crisis. The government made the announcement after Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra met with the Election Commission, which had sought a delay in the polls.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nigeria

Kawuri villagers injured in attack

With gunfire exploding all around, Rabi Mallam raced into her hut with her son and granddaughter. But then the suspected Islamic extremists set the home ablaze, and Mallam was severely burned before escaping. It is unclear how many residents of Kawuri village perished. By Tuesday, 85 bodies had been found.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Preventative measures. UN deploys EU troops to Central African Republic

The UN Security Council on Tuesday unanimously authorized the deployment of a European Union force to the Central African Republic to bolster French and African troops who are trying to quell sectarian violence that the United Nations has warned could escalate into genocide.

The council also approved financial sanctions against individuals who have committed human rights abuses, threaten peace and a political transition process and violate an arms embargo imposed earlier on the country.

French Ambassador Gérard Araud said the EU troops will be deployed to guard the airport in the capital, Bangui, where 100,000 people have taken refuge, mostly living on the tarmac. Araud said that will free up French troops to move beyond the airport and take up security operations in Bangui and beyond.

The EU mission likely will comprise of 500 to 600 troops. It remains unclear which countries will contribute. Thomas

The struggle

More than 1,000 people have been killed and nearly 1 million forced from their homes since December in violence between Christians and Muslims, militias and civilians.

- The mostly Muslim rebels, known as Seleka, came from the country's far north in March 2013 to overthrow the president.
- The situation has stabilized somewhat since rebel-turned-president Michel Djotodia surrendered power.
- A new interim civilian government has pledged to halt the violence.

Mayr-Harting, the head of the EU delegation to the United Nations, said the EU forces would be on the ground within weeks but could not provide a specific time frame. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

The Philippines. Police accused of playing 'wheel of torture' game

Philippine police officers played a "wheel of torture" game to have fun and punish criminal suspects during interrogations, including bouts of punching named after boxing star Manny Pacquiao, human rights officials and activists said Tuesday.

Under the game, detainees — mostly suspected drug traffickers — were punched if the "torture wheel" stopped at "20 seconds Manny Pacman," Pacquiao's nickname, or hung upside down if it stopped at a

punishment called "30-second bat." Amnesty International said. The London-based rights group called the practice despicable.

A picture of the multicoloured wheel provided by the Commission on Human Rights showed several other tortures, including "3 minutes zombies" and "30-second duck walk/feris wheel" but it was not immediately clear how those punishments were carried out.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



In this photo taken Jan. 9 and released by the Commission on Human Rights in Manila Tuesday, a "wheel of torture" is placed on a post at an undisclosed police safe house. COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OK, Glass, order a pair of 'thin' frames in bright blue 'sky'

Blind as a bat? Google Glass has you covered, offering four frame styles of the wearable, web-connected gadget



The new Google Glass "Bold" prescription frames in shale color are modeled at the Google Glass Basecamp space in New York Friday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Google Glass is getting glasses.

The computerized, Internet-connected goggles don't actually come with lenses in their frame. Starting Tuesday, Google is offering an optional attachment for prescription lenses and new styles of detachable sunglasses.

The move comes as Google Inc. prepares to make Glass available to the general population later this year. Currently, Glass is available only to the tens of thousands of people who are testing and creating apps for it.

Glass is basically a small

computer, with a camera and a display screen above the wearer's right eye. The device sits roughly at eyebrow level, higher than where eyeglasses would go.

The gadget itself is not changing with this announcement. Rather, the Mountain View, Calif., company is now offering four styles of frames for prescription lenses. It's also offering two new types of shades,

in addition to the one previously available. The frames cost \$225 US and the shades, \$150 US. That's on top of the \$1,500 US price of Glass.

Users can take the frames to any vision care provider for prescription lenses. Google says it is working with insurance provider Vision Service Plan to train eye-care providers around the U.S. on how to work with Glass. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



My (mannequin) body's too bootylicious for ya, babe

The one-size-fits-all mannequin is getting a much-needed makeover. Stores are using more realistic versions of the usually tall, svelte, faceless mannequins in windows and aisles. David's Bridal mannequins soon will get thicker waists, saggy breasts and back fat to mimic a more realistic shape. America's largest bridal chain started changing its fit mannequins used to create gowns to reflect the average body. BEBETO MATTHEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
89.64¢
(-0.35¢)

Natural gas: \$5.00 US (+0.10)
Dow Jones: 15,928.56 (+90.68)

TSX
13,687.66 (+105.37)

OIL
\$97.41 US (+\$1.69)

GOLD
\$1,250.80 US (-\$12.60)

Not a slave to trends

BlackBerry jumps on FM radio... 68 years after the CBC

BlackBerry has launched a new feature that it can boast even the latest iPhones don't have: FM radio.

The rollout of the new version of the BlackBerry 10 operating system, which the Waterloo-based company says includes hundreds of enhancements and new features, started Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lime mint toothpaste

This may just 'Be' the worst idea since New Coke

Mint chocolate toothpaste?

Procter & Gamble said it is launching a line of Crest toothpastes called "Be" featuring nontraditional flavours: Mint Chocolate Trek, Vanilla Mint Spark and Lime Spearmint Zest.

P&G's marketing director said the "Be" line was designed to "allow for an unexpected experience through flavours that offer personal expression."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PEACE SYMBOL NEEDS BOLSTERING

The signs are everywhere.

For example, on Sunday, Pope Francis released two white doves of peace from his window at the Vatican, assisted by two extremely cute children.

It was a gesture of hope that the bloody protests in the Ukraine could be resolved.

Seconds after the doves were released, they were attacked by a big nasty crow and an even bigger, nastier seagull.

Well, you don't have to be Robert Langdon — Dan Brown's professor of religious symbolism from Angels and Demons — to get the idea on that one, especially as the world's media gleefully featured a photo of the forces of darkness (crow) locked in a death struggle with faith and hope (snow white dove).

The dove got the worst of it.

It's a little harder to interpret the attack by the seagull, which is not known for its poetics.



JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

"Big hungry bird breaks for lunch," perhaps.

Signs aside, there's a perfectly logical scientific explanation for the attack of the angry birds, according to National Geographic. White doves stand out in a crowd of otherwise grey pigeons; they can't hide, and predators single them out for attack.

Which is why those albino wildlife don't last long in nature, another potentially rich vein of overwrought symbolism.

Meanwhile, the white dove, a pristine symbol of faith and hope, is just a pigeon of a different colour. It's just as feisty when it comes to fighting for that last scrap and it's known to eats bugs.

Hardly holy.

This is not the first time the Doves of the Vatican have been repelled. The doves of the previous pontiff, pope Benedict, were attacked by a seagull last year, and then turned

around and tried to fly back into the window, crying "Sanctuary!" in dovish.

Maybe the popes should audition a slightly more robust avian symbol of peace and love. Like the bald eagle, a symbol of America's tough love for generations of banana republicans.

After all, St. Michael the Archangel has a sword for exactly this kind of thing. Some demon, who thinks he's a soft touch with all the long hair and gossamer wings, tries to knock him over — and bam!

Out comes the Sword of Righteousness and our demon is instantly sorry he ever heard of St. Michael the Archangel.

This is really Pope Francis' first PR miscalculation. He has already managed to atone for the sins of the papacy in his famous "Who am I to judge?" interview about gay people. You'd think he might have learned from his predecessor's feathered follies.

Or maybe this will inspire him to reach back into his Gospel and show mercy to his winged tormenters. "Let he who is without sin ... stone the crows."

ZOOM

I'm not ashamed of the way I look



SERGEY KOKINSKIY/SOLENT NEWS

Molting penguin is a head-turner

Even in the animal kingdom, a unique dress sense is sure to catch the eye of an onlooker. Here, a king penguin stands out from the flock as it has not finished its molting process. Photographer Sergey Kokinskiy travelled to the remote island of South Georgia in the southern Atlantic Ocean to capture the penguin flock, which can sometimes number

over 200,000.

Every year in the spring, king penguins molt in order to replace old feathers with new ones, a process that lasts three to four weeks. As they molt, their feathers lose their insulating and waterproofing properties, so during this time penguins stay away from the water until their plumage is fully restored. As they fast while molting, penguins can lose 44 per cent of their original weight. **METRO**

A foreigner on their land



"Penguins' individual features allow the fur to stay on parts of the body longer than others."

Sergey Kokinskiy, from Tula, Russia
"If you sit down and don't make any sudden movements, the penguins will come to you within five or 10 minutes. Some will try to bite you too — out of curiosity."

King of the islands

- **Location.** Sits 1,390 kilometres to the east of Falkland Islands. Administered by the British government.
- **Population.** Approximately 2.23 million pairs of king penguins, with numbers rising. No human residents.

Clickbait



LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

Much of the coverage of technology's darker side has focused on how they — governments, law enforcement, corporations — are using smartphones and computers to watch us. However, a smattering of intrepid developers are trying to turn the tables, building apps that empower us — either by letting us listen in or assist us during an arrest.

Police Scanner 5-0:

This free app lets you stream more than 2,500 police and fire feeds on your cell-phone. Most of the available channels are American, but it includes some Canadian ones, too. Available for both Android and iOS.

I'm Getting Arrested:

In the event of an untimely arrest, this Android app lets you broadcast a pre-made message to your friends, family, legal counsel, etc. I want my phone call, indeed.



GETTY IMAGES

Twitter

Blue over here eh?

@metropicks asked: According to Google searches, Canada is boring, corrupt and cold. How do you want Canada to be viewed?

@NerdwithWerds: Canada Home of Hockey and Great Beer

@awdarn: LOL if it keeps them away it's all good

@mtlkeith: Researched by who DUMB AND DUMBER???
#Canadaisthebest

@mtlkeith: Amen brother. Give me a

@iSeeHighPeople: at least other countries (people) like us which is more than I can see for the folks just under us

@igor_mariano: Canada is all about cultural diversity and natural beauty

@PadraigBennett: exemplary in every aspect.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

Send us your comments: halifaxletters@metronews.ca



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Need a troubled tough guy for your next film? Call Brolin

Labor Day. From crooks to cons, actor plays shady characters with aplomb



IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

In my review for the recent remake of *Oldboy* I wrote of Josh Brolin, "there is no more manly-man actor in the mold of Lee Marvin or Lee Van Cleef working today."

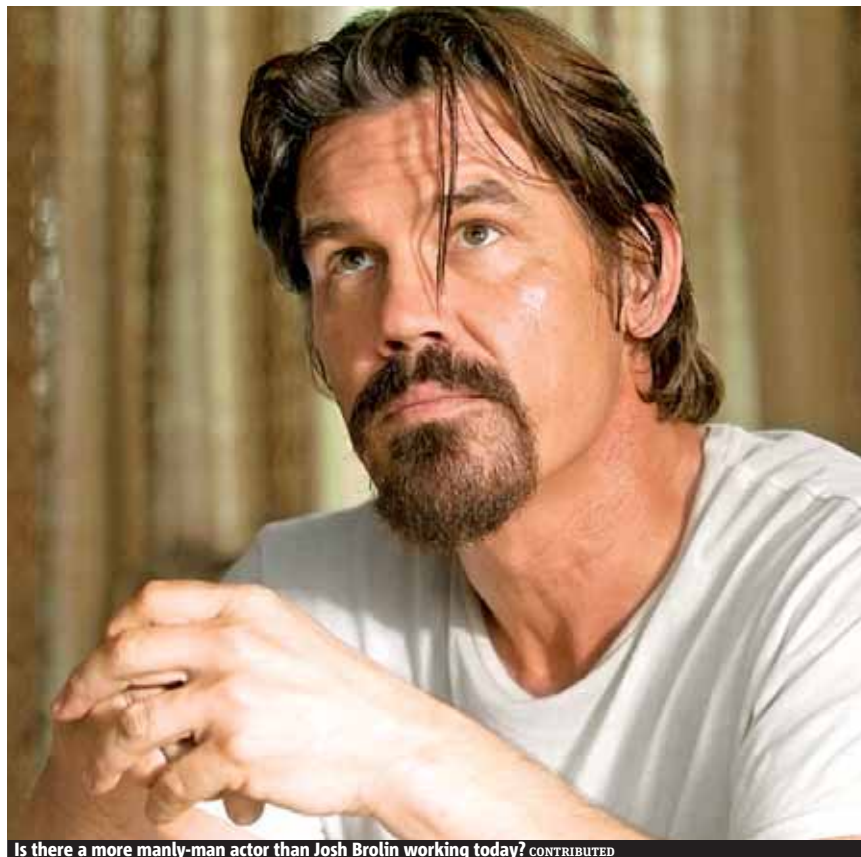
I guess that shouldn't be a surprise given that he was named after the rough-and-tumble character Josh Randall, played by Steve McQueen in TV's *Wanted: Dead or Alive*.

In *Oldboy* he's so tough he's a practically indestructible force of nature; able to withstand physical punishment that would make Grigori Rasputin look like a wimp.

The tough guy angle is one Brolin plays in a number of films, including his latest *Labor Day*.

He plays an escaped convict who hides out in the home of a depressed, widowed agoraphobic, played by Kate Winslet.

Over the course of one long holiday weekend she



Is there a more manly-man actor than Josh Brolin working today? CONTRIBUTED

learns of his dangerous past and before you can say the words Stockholm Syndrome has fallen for the ruggedly handsome stranger.

It's the kind of role that

Brolin has mastered; the multi-layered tough guy. But according to him, he doesn't seek out those roles.

He says he wracks his "brain like crazy trying to

figure out which films I wanted to be in."

Some of those films include *No Country for Old Men* and *Jonah Hex*.

In the Oscar-nominated

No Country he plays down-on-his-luck Llewelyn Moss, who stumbles across the site of a drug deal gone wrong.

Bullet-ridden dead men litter the landscape along with several kilos of heroin and a suitcase stuffed with two million dollars in cash. When he makes off with the money his life and the lives of those around him are changed forever.

Jonah Hex didn't earn any Oscar nods, but did get some Razzie attention in the form of nominations for Worst Screen Couple for Brolin and co-star Megan Fox.

The story of a supernatural bounty hunter set on revenge against the man who killed his family is as disfigured as its main character's face, but Brolin brings his real-life swagger to the role and has fun with some of the tongue-in-what's-left-of-his-cheek lines.

One tough guy role got away from him, however. Online speculation had it that he would be cast as the Caped Crusader in the upcoming *Batman vs. Superman*.

Although he would have been perfect for the part he lost out to Ben Affleck. Contrary to his bruiser persona he was gracious in defeat. "I'm happy for Ben," he said.

Greg Kinnear needs no approval in Rake

Keegan Deane is that one friend we all have who just can't get his act together. He's the loveable screw-up, and he's the star of the new comedy series *Rake*.

Portrayed by Greg Kinnear, Deane owes nearly \$60,000 to his bookie, has been crashing at his best friend's house for four months, and is in love with a prostitute who views their relationship as a business transaction. He's a narcissist in denial, but he's also a brilliant defence attorney who is incredibly charming.

"I don't think he has a great self-awareness of [his problems]," Kinnear says of his character. "It comes in fits and starts. There are moments where he has a little bit of re-

flection about where he's at on the map, but certainly, you know, out of the gate, very little."

Deane's ego — and his utter lack of interest in adhering to normal societal standards — drew Kinnear to the series, which is based on an Australian show of the same name. "I was intrigued immediately when I saw the mess of that guy," he says. "That kind of absolute lack of need for approval is a hugely attractive thing, especially if you're an actor. Getting to play that and getting to pursue a guy who's not necessarily interested in what you think was a really cool element for me."

Which is a good thing, be-

cause Deane's clients in upcoming episodes include a serial killer and a cannibal — not your typical underdog stories. And yet, *Rake* finds a way to make the audience root for the antihero. Kinnear chalks it up to the show's fine-tuned ability to weave comedy into dramatic storylines.

"It really struck a nice chord between the drama and the comedy, which is what appealed to me," Kinnear says.

AMBER M. RAY/METRO WORLD NEWS

Details

Rake airs Thursdays on Global at 9 p.m. ET/PT.



Greg Kinnear plays Keegan Deane in *Rake*. CONTRIBUTED



Justin Bieber MIAMI DADE COUNTY JAIL

Bring roses for the judge? Biebs will go a-courting on Valentine's Day

Justin Bieber has a Valentine's Day date with a South Florida judge on charges of DUI, resisting arrest and driving with an expired license.

A Miami-Dade County judge on Tuesday set a Feb. 14 arraignment date for the 19-year-old star. In an arraignment, prosecutors formally file charges and a plea is entered, although a defendant's lawyer can enter the plea in writing. Bieber might not be required to attend.

Bieber and R&B singer Khalil Amir Sharieff were arrested last week in Miami Beach during what police described as an illegal street

drag race between a Lamborghini and a Ferrari. Neither has been charged with drag racing.

Police say Bieber admitted to smoking marijuana, drinking and taking a prescription medication.

Meanwhile, his detractors are growing bolder: A petition has been launched via the White House's online portal calling to have Bieber deported and his green card revoked. The petition has already garnered more than 50,000 signatures, more than enough to earn some sort of response from the White House. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS AND METRO WORLD NEWS**

Was Sienna the mystery woman heard on Daniel's voice mail?

A U.K. tabloid reporter who has pleaded guilty to phone hacking said Tuesday that he played the News of the World's editor a hacked voice mail left for actor Daniel Craig by actress Sienna Miller, with whom Craig was having an affair.

Dan Evans is a prosecution witness at the trial of his former boss, Andy Coulson, and six others, on charges related to wrongdoing at the now-shuttered Rupert Murdoch-owned tabloid.

Evans told the trial that in 2005 he eavesdropped on Craig's voice mails and heard a message from a woman saying: "Hi, it's me. Cannot speak. I'm at the Groucho (Club) with Jude. I love you."

The call came from Miller's number. The newspaper later ran a story alleging an affair between the actress — then involved with Jude Law — and future 007 Craig.

Evans said Coulson heard the recording, then told him how to cover his tracks by making a copy, putting it in a



Daniel Craig GETTY IMAGES

bag and taking it to the newspaper's reception so it would look like it had been dropped off anonymously.

Murdoch shut the tabloid News of the World in 2011 after details emerged of the scale of its snooping on celebrities, politicians and others in the public eye. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Is Madonna going to sing with Miley?

MELINDA
TAUB

Metro World News

I've been saying for some time now that the reason for Miley Cyrus' aggressive sexuality and sexy space alien look is that she's trying to be our generation's Madonna. However, I never expected that this would endear her to the original Madonna, who hasn't shown an inclination to pass the torch of Madonna-ing. It's possible, though, that I was wrong about that — the two are apparently planning a performance together.

Miley is working on an acoustic set for MTV's Unplugged. It seems like a good move for the Bangerz

star: She's got the fame, now she needs the cred that comes from a vocal-driven, stripped-down set with no midgets to spank or foam fingers to hump. And speaking of cred — according to E! Online, rumour has it the Material Girl herself will stop by to perform with Miley.

The two were reportedly spotted rehearsing together, but MTV hasn't confirmed Madonna's appearance. "The performance will showcase a more intimate side of Cyrus and feature surprise guests for an unexpected reinvention of the songs that have defined her career, including several from her No. 1 critically acclaimed album, Bangerz," MTV said in a press release.

What do you think they'll sing? I feel like Miley could do a mean Material Girl.



Flavor Flav GETTY IMAGES

Rapper Flavor Flav released after speeding without a license

A New York judge has released Flavor Flav without bail in his speeding case. State police say the rapper, whose real name is William Drayton, was speeding and driving without a license en route to his mother's funeral on Jan. 9. The rapper pleaded not guilty Tuesday.

Drayton, who lives in Las Vegas, was accused of driving 79 m.p.h. (127 km/h) in a 55

m.p.h. (89 km/h) zone on Long Island. Police say the Long Island native also had a small amount of marijuana.

His lawyer told the judge that she has taken care of 16 outstanding traffic matters.

Drayton had to remove his trademark clock from around his neck to pass through the metal detector. After court, he told journalists that "God is good." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Ashley Benson draws the bikini line

Ashley Benson did some fairly revealing work in Spring Breakers last year, but don't expect to see much more of the Pretty Little Liars star on screen. "I never want to do nudity that's gratuitous. Girls look so much better in lingerie or a T-shirt and leave the rest up to the imagination," she tells Cosmopolitan magazine. "I make it clear that I have a line. Everyone tries to push you, and it's easy to get talked into doing those things. I'll just walk off set. But not everyone realizes they can do that."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Ashley Benson GETTY IMAGES

Twitter



@ElizabethHurley

Trying to decide what new chickens to buy & studying layers on the Rare Breeds At Risk list. Anyone have any Cochins, Sussex or Ixworth?



@JasonAlexander

Hey Government — know what you can learn about me from my Angry Birds app? That I suck at Angry Birds. Money well spent.



@TheEllenShow

I'm ready for some football! This morning, my neighbor asked me if I was planning on watching the Super Bowl this weekend, and I tackled her

Welcome to Sochi

No doubt you have some questions about the Russian locale that will play host to the 2014 Winter Olympics. Here are a few details about the resort city dubbed the Russian Riviera.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For visitors to the Winter Olympics, Sochi may feel like a landscape from a dream — familiar and strange at once. Palm trees evoke a tropical seaside resort, but the Black Sea itself is seriously cold; turn away from the palms and the jagged, snow-covered peaks of the Caucasus Mountains rise nearby. Live-ly and garish modern buildings mix with Stalin Gothic piles, like trophy wives on the arms of elderly men. Billboards are written in an

alphabet in which some letters sound exactly like you think they do, others mean something else and the rest are flat-out alien. What may seem oddest of all is the city's cheerful and relaxed aura in a country stereotyped as dour. Even a local statue of Vladimir Lenin catches the casual vibe. He's not haranguing the masses, just standing under some trees with one hand in his pocket as if he's killing time waiting for a date.

Will they understand me?

Volunteer staff at Olympics test events spoke excellent English and sometimes struck up conversations just to improve their skills (or show off). But outside the Olympic venues and large hotels, communication in languages other than Russian can be difficult. The Games' organizing committee recommends that mobile device

users download a translation app. The Cyrillic alphabet isn't as hard as it may look, and spending a couple of hours to master it brings sizeable rewards. Russian has many loanwords from English, French and German, so being able to sound out words can make the place pop into better focus. For example, knowing that "teatp" is pronounced "teater," it's a reasonable and correct guess that it means "theatre."

How's the weather?

Rain, snow, sun, fog, warmish, cold — a few days at the Olympics likely will include them all. On the coast, where the ice sports and opening and closing ceremonies take place, daytime temper-

atures should be around 50 F (10 C) and freezing is unlikely. In the mountains, temperatures generally don't get severely cold; at the lower elevations, where ski-jumping and sliding sports take place, the prospect of rain and above-freezing temperatures is a concern.



An aerial view of some of the Olympic buildings under construction in Sochi. GETTY IMAGES

Am I in Sochi?

Rather like New York City, Sochi is a sprawling municipality, incorporating four boroughs. Confusingly, one of the four is called Sochi. So it's possible to both be in Sochi and say "I'm going to Sochi." All the Olympic events take place in the

Adler borough, though the snow sports venues are often referred to as being in specific settlements such as Krasnaya Polyana and Esto-Sadok. Sochi borough is more or less the Manhattan of the city, home to the best restaurants, coolest clubs and the main

cultural institutions. The urban part of Adler also has attractive restaurants. But while its attractions are relatively cosmopolitan, and its coastline is 90 miles long (145 kilometres), Sochi is not a big city population-wise, with only about 350,000 inhabitants.



Both the Black Sea and Sochi's daytime temperatures should be around 10 C during the Games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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XO
- 4** Pitbull ft Ke\$ha
Timber
- 3** Lady Gaga
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- 2** Katy Perry Ft Juicy J
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The Caucasus Mountains rise above Sochi. ISTOCK



What can I do besides watch Olympic events?

Downtown Sochi and Adler both have long and appealing seaside promenades, complete with tacky souvenir stands, lively bars and restaurants. Sochi also has an attractive passenger harbour, whose spired terminal is one of the city's standout buildings, and an art museum.

The most idiosyncratic attraction may be Sochi's extensive mountainside botanical garden, the Dendrarium, with an unusual array of plants showing the variable climate.

Sochi has long been a

choice destination for Russia's political elite. Joseph Stalin's summer residence in Zeleni Mys even features a wax mannequin of the dictator at his desk.

A swim in the Black Sea may make an unusual Winter Olympics memory. The beaches are stony and the water temperature will be around 50 F (10 C); concerns have been raised about pollution in the sea around Dagomys, north of downtown Sochi. Although most of Sochi's sports facilities will be devoted to the Games, the Gornaya Karusel ski area expects to have some slopes open to the public, organizers say.

A classic Russian way to

while away an afternoon is a trip to the banya, like a sauna but somewhat steamier. If your hotel doesn't have one, it can likely recommend a good one nearby. A proper trip to the banya involves several hours of repeatedly heating up and cooling down, along with snacking and having a few drinks.

Local tourist agencies offer other excursions. These include day trips to the separatist Georgian region of Abkhazia, but visitors will need a double-entry Russian visa to get back into Sochi, and travel to the rest of Georgia is forbidden to those who come to Abkhazia from the Russian side.



Tired of the sports? Shop for some Russian tchotchkes in downtown Sochi and Adler. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Chowder leaves room for imagination

Weeknight meal.

Loaded with seafood, this dish allows you to improvise ingredients without sacrificing any of the flavour



DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

FLASH FOOD



From your fridge
to your table in
30 minutes or less

This chowder is quick enough to make for a weeknight meal or to keep in mind when entertaining on the weekend.

It has a creamy base to it but is not heavy because it uses milk instead of cream.

You can jazz the chowder up with additional flavours by

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp (15 ml) vegetable oil
- 1 shallot, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 stalks celery, thinly sliced
- 1 pkg (8 oz/227 g) mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 1 red pepper, diced
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped fresh tarragon or 1 tsp (5 ml) dried
- 2 cups (500 ml) 2% milk
- 2 cups (500 ml) sodium reduced chicken broth
- 6 oz (200 g) raw shrimp, peeled and deveined, chopped
- 6 oz (200 g) bay scallops
- 1 can (142 g) baby clams, drained and rinsed



This recipe makes six servings. EMILY RICHARDS

adding diced tomatoes or other vegetables like peas and corn. Check out your pantry and get creative in the kitchen.

Tarragon is a licorice-flavoured fresh herb that shines through in this soup. Dried tarragon works just as well in a pinch. If tarragon isn't available, use Italian parsley for a

fresh alternative.

Serve this soup with garlic bread and a green salad for a heart warming dinner that's perfect for a cold winter's night while keeping healthy in mind.

1. Heat oil in soup pot over medium high heat and cook shallot, garlic, celery, mush-

rooms, pepper and tarragon 10 mins or until liquid evaporates.

2. Add milk and broth and bring to a gentle boil.

3. Add shrimp, scallop and clams and simmer for about 5 mins or until scallops are opaque and firm.

**START TO
FINISH
30 MINUTES**

Cooking tips

- Look for fresh seafood at your local grocer and use it the same day or by the next day. If you are purchasing frozen seafood, let it thaw overnight in the refrigerator.
- You can use salmon to replace either the shrimp or scallops. One salmon portion, which is usually about 5 oz (150 g), is the perfect amount for this soup.

Just throw it in the bag — literally

1. Heat the oven to 400 F. Cut the orange and lemon in half crosswise. Thinly slice 1/2 of the orange and 1/2 of the lemon. Juice the remaining halves of both fruits.

2. Set a 24-inch-long sheet of kitchen parchment on a baking sheet. Fold the sheet in half across the short side, then open the folded parchment (like a book), leaving one half of it on the baking sheet. Arrange about half of the orange and lemon slices in a single layer in the centre of the parchment on the baking sheet.

3. Sprinkle half the rosemary over the citrus slices. Set the salmon over the rosemary, then sprinkle with salt, the citrus juices and oil. Scatter the olives and chili over the salmon pieces. Top each piece

of salmon with a quarter of the remaining rosemary and citrus slices.

4. Fold the second half of the parchment over the fish, then crimp and fold the edges

together to create a sealed packet. Bake — on the sheet pan — on the oven's middle shelf for 10 to 12 minutes, or until just cooked through (stick a paring knife through the parchment and salmon; it should move easily through the fish if done).

5. Cut open the parchment, discard the citrus slices from the top of the salmon, then place each piece on a serving plate. Spoon some of the olives, chilies, rosemary and juices over each piece. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/SARA MOULTON, AUTHOR OF SARA MOULTON'S EVERYDAY FAMILY DINNERS.**

Ingredients

- 1 small orange
- 1 lemon
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh rosemary
- Four skinless 6-oz centre cut salmon fillet pieces
- Kosher salt
- 2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/3 cup pitted and chopped olives, preferably oil-cured
- 1/2 serrano chili, thinly sliced crosswise



This Salmon Baked In a Bag recipe makes four servings. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What do you have to say for myself?

The feedback we crave. How to get it, how to use it, and how to give it back

SIDNEYEVE
MATRIX
TalentEgg.ca

Recently, Canadian Olympic athletes were surveyed by Mondelēz Canada about the best ways for spectators to cheer them on to a gold medal standing in Sochi.

Fully three-quarters of them said that “hearing their fans cheering and shouting” and seeing them “waving encouraging signs of support” is highly motivational.

Feedback matters, to athletes, to all of us.

Sometimes feedback isn't easy to come by. For Gen Y, a cohort accustomed to the instantaneity of social media feedback loops, it can be frustrating when your work performance isn't evaluated. If feedback expectations are unmet, employees are likely to feel unmotivated, isolated, and are more apt to jump ship.

Thanks anyway:
ignoring the wrong
feedback



We, like our awesome Olympians, deserve to hear cheers when we're doing great things. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

At other times we get feedback but fail to act on it.

This is especially common if the feedback feels like it's the wrong kind.

For example, we're unlikely to take feedback to heart when it seems contradictory. Likewise for many, praise and recognition, while nice to hear, are not what we most crave at work.

It turns out that six out of ten people prefer corrective feedback (such as suggestions for improvement) over positive feedback (such as congratulatory comments), according to Harvard Business Review.

Need to brainstorm on that business idea?

- If you have a new project or entrepreneurial endeavour and want to test it out and get some feedback on it, try Quora for general questions, and Kickstarter for both community feedback and funding support.

Key attributes of efficient and usable feedback are frequency, clarity, and specificity, observes Jay Gilbert in the University of Western Ontario's Ivey Business Journal. But it takes time, and a lot of it, to provide that kind of personalized feedback.

As employers seek to create a culture of feedback

and collaboration, more are adopting enterprise software systems to socialize employee reviews.

Helping staff get 360-degree peer-to-peer feedback — not once a year but continuously — is the idea.

It makes good business sense, because research shows that regular, low-

stakes assessment is highly effective.

That's because it allows the receiver to make incremental improvements and small adjustments. They are then less likely to become immobilized, defeated, and overwhelmed by a deluge of decontextualized feedback in an annual assessment.

Social feedback

If you feel the need for more feedback on your creative work and ideas, turn to the social web. A bit of web sleuthing is almost guaranteed to uncover a niche community where you can engage in commentary, ask questions, and practice social reciprocity by giving feedback while also receiving it. Some examples:

Graphic designers and photographers

Look to the Behance network or DeviantART (both have free/paid options) to showcase and discover design work and submit your creative work for critique by a global community. If you're a photographer, Flickr or 1X (free/paid) communities are good bets to receive professional feedback. All of these sites also do double duty by hosting online creative portfolios for a fee.

Writers and editors

Want feedback on your writing? Beyond fan fiction sites, visit ABCTales (free) or Critique Circle (paid), two large active communities where published and aspiring authors can share, discuss and develop their work.

Fashion designers and stylists

For fashionistas, try LookBook and Polyvore to get community feedback from other (established as well as up-and-coming) stylists, models, and designers.

And as a bonus, by becoming involved in a feedback community, online or off, you'll also expand your professional networks — and don't forget that volunteering is another way to garner feedback while giving back.

Don't be surprised if a quest for feedback ends up inspiring your next great idea and uncovers some collaborators to help make it happen.

THIS ARTICLE IS EXCERPTED FROM MY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE IN PERSONAL BRANDING WITH SOCIAL MEDIA, OFFERED ONLINE AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY.

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It's raining mentors, hallelujah!

Happy National Mentoring Month. The time is right to consider the qualities of a good mentoring relationship, and some strategies for finding a great advisor

SIDNEYEVE
MATRIX
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It's a truism that having a mentor is important if you want to fast track your career.

An experienced advisor can steer you along a career trajectory, navigating around professional obstacles and raising your profile with senior executives.

Gaining the public endorsement of your mentor can go a long way toward building your professional credibility, especially if they

are a recognized leader in the field. They can also assist you to better understand the industry.

Three qualities of great mentors

There is a long list of attributes to a successful mentoring relationship, but here are three of the most cited.

Accessibility

The right mentor can help you develop the skills for career success — and unlock a world of opportunity.

It may seem obvious, but a good mentor will consistently make time for you in their schedule. You'll get more out of a busy advisor if your meetings are structured with an agenda or at the very least, by a list of questions you come prepared with to productively guide the conversation.

Good listener

Your mentor must seek to



Your mentor is someone you can trust to provide sincere performance feedback, since they are invested in seeing you succeed. ISTOCK

understand who you are and what you need before jumping in with advice, knowledge and insights. Instead of delivering a lecture, the best mentors listen actively and ask the right questions — inspiring you to do the thinking.

Confidence builder

In the process of engaging with your mentor you should be developing greater self-awareness. Your mentor should help you to see and believe in your

own potential, challenge and inspire you, and encourage you to reach for your highest goals.

Finding your career mentor

Many workplaces have formal mentoring programs, but there are many ways to find informal mentoring relationships on your own.

Go back to class

Register yourself in a profes-

sional development seminar to learn a new skill or upgrade existing ones — and in the processes connect with industry experts. For example: Canadian Marketing Association seminars, the Entrepreneurs' Organization, the Canadian Association of Women Executives.

Use social media

Find, follow, and reach out online to influencers on Twitter, Google+, LinkedIn and Quora — to build a personal learning network. And don't forget to join and contribute to LinkedIn Groups.

Fill up your events calendar

Research and plan to attend industry events, to learn what's new and connect with organizers and speakers as prospective mentors. Introduce yourself, business card in hand, and having done your homework and perfected your elevator speech. And because, as Seth Godin rightly observed, “no

one actually ever bought anything on an elevator” — craft your speech to begin professional relationships, not as a hard sell seeking to close a deal.

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Cole Harbour to Colorado, Mac makes a difference

Fantastic freshman.

Already leading the NHL in rookie scoring, the Colorado Avalanche forward is eager for more



ANDREW RANKIN

andrew.rankin@metronews.ca

For Nathan MacKinnon, the Cole Harbour Place represents a piece of himself.

He established life-long friendships within those walls, it's where he set his hockey foundation.

Some of his finest memories can be traced back to his earliest hockey years, when the Cole Harbour Red Wings captured the Atlantic Bantam AAA championship in 2008.

"That's just one, there are so many memories that are really important to me," said MacKinnon.

That helps to explain his attachment to this year's Kraft Hockeyville project. He's one of five NHL players who are promoting the program, which has set aside a million dollars toward upgrading community rinks across Canada. The nomination process runs until Feb. 9. From there a panel of judges

Quoted

"I have had a little more confidence and I think that's made the difference for me as of late."

Colorado Avalanche forward Nathan MacKinnon

combined with voters from across the country determine who gets what.

"I'm from a relatively small town; I'm proud to promote Atlantic Canada. I think our rinks serve a really important place in communities by bringing people together, symbolizing the community. Hockey is our pastime. Everyone can go and play and share their passion for the game."

After being selected first overall by the Colorado Avalanche last June, he's gone on to lead all NHL rookies in scoring with 35 points, 14 of those in his last 15 games.

"It's been a lot fun. I have had time to adjust and figure out the NHL. I've been getting more comfortable with the game. I've gotten a lot better, a lot better all-round player."

And he doesn't hide his excitement over being the frontrunner to win the Calder Trophy, given to the league's top rookie.

"It would be pretty cool accomplishment, there's no



Nathan MacKinnon is a contender for the NHL's Calder Trophy for rookie of the year. DOUG PENSINGER/GETTY IMAGES

question about that. You hear about it a lot. You see it on Twitter. It puts even more pressure on you. But I try not to think about it too much."

His biggest NHL moment

came on Jan. 10 against the New York Islanders. Blowing past the Islanders' defence-men, MacKinnon topping it off highlight-reel style, top shelf.

"It was my favourite one, for sure. To have tons of fans on their feet cheering for you ... I'm just an 18-year-old kid, and it gave me goose bumps."

Huskies' heads high for 2nd season

It hasn't been the easiest of seasons for Lucas Bloodoff.

But the Saint Mary's Huskies captain has refused to dwell on the adversity his team's faced thus far: inconsistency, injuries — not to mention losing head coach Trevor Steinburg for the first part of the season.

Instead, he's focused on accentuating the positives.

"It seems like there's been something different every day, but we don't look for excuses of why we're not successful," said Bloodoff. "Rather we look at the ways we've been successful and put our energy toward finding ways to get better."

There was enough for Bloodoff and Co. to be happy about in their 3-0 win over

the Dalhousie Tigers at the Halifax Forum on Tuesday night.

Outshooting the Tigers 45-25, the Huskies got on the board four minutes into the opening frame. And from there they buckled down, simply outlasting an opponent that failed to establish a lasting rhythm all evening.

"I liked the way we were playing down low, our special teams is looking a bit better," added Bloodoff, who scored a shorthanded tally and added an assist. "But the biggest thing was our work ethic in our forecheck, jumping on loose pucks."

With their second straight win, the Huskies are back at .500 (11-11) and tied for fifth place with the St. Francis

X-Men with six games remaining in their schedule.

Heading into the playoffs, Bloodoff believes that things are falling into place just at the right time.

"We've strung two good games together now we have a big weekend coming up."

At the bottom of the standings, the Tigers are 2-19. But like Bloodoff, Tigers captain Pierre Vandal chooses to look at the bright side.

"It's been a disappointing season," he said. "But the good thing is we're playing our best every night and with so many young guys that's a good thing for next year."

Steven Bayers and Michael D'Orazio rounded out the scoring for the Huskies.

ANDREW RANKIN/METRO



Saint Mary's Huskies' Steven Bayers, right, gets around the Dalhousie Tigers' Ben Gervais during AUS men's hockey action at the Halifax Forum on Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO



Wish Stamkos luck, not a broken leg

The Lightning's Steven Stamkos skates during practice in Toronto on Tuesday. Stamkos, who broke his leg in November, practised 20 minutes during a morning skate prior to the Lightning's 3-2 loss to the Maple Leafs. Stamkos said his goal is to suit up for one of Tampa Bay's final six games prior to the Olympic break and then participate in the Sochi games next month. **NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

COC pressures athletes to 'maintain the gain'

The goal is the same, but it will be harder to achieve without the advantage of home ice and snow.

Winning more medals than any other country is Canada's objective at the Sochi Olympics, as it was four years ago in Vancouver.

Canada's 26 medals was good for third overall in 2010, but winning the gold-medal count with a record 14 raised the stakes for Sochi.

Canadians know now their country can be the best

A bigger haul

36

There are 36 more medals to be won in Sochi than there were in Vancouver

in the world in winter sports. The pressure is on to at least "maintain the gain."

"We want to be a contender for the total medals championship and to be number one," Canadian Olympic

Committee president Marcel Aubut says. "We have tried to do everything to get prepared for this incredible and ambitious goal. We love ambitious goals."

A host country beating its medal count at the following Games is rare. It has happened only three times.

The last country to do so happens to be Canada with five medals in Calgary in 1988, followed by seven in Albertville, France, in 1992.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Contingency plans don't bother players

Olympic security. Sochi-bound NHLers know the league will only keep them from competing in Russia for good reason

The NHL's Olympic break is less than two weeks away but the threat of terrorism is keeping the situation volatile.

After deputy commissioner Bill Daly said the league would consider pulling out of Sochi if something "significant" happens before players arrive, those set to participate are trying not to worry about that scenario.

"Between the NHL and the NHLPA and the Olympic people, in communication obviously with the people in Russia, they're going to advise us if we shouldn't go," Ken Holland of Canada's management team said Tuesday. "I'm looking at the lead of the NHL."

"Until they tell us we're not going, I'm going to Newark and going to jump on a plane and go to Sochi."

A Hockey Canada spokesman said the organization had no official comment, adding nothing has changed about the situation.

Charter planes are scheduled to leave for Sochi on Feb. 9, two days after the opening ceremony. Security concerns are keeping athletes on edge well before that, though Daly said in an email to The Associated Press he doesn't expect the plan to change.

"Obviously, if something significant were to transpire between now and Feb. 9 that causes us to question that conclusion, we will re-evaluate," Daly told AP.

Forward Tomas Tatar, who will represent Slovakia, read about that Tuesday morning before the Detroit Red Wings' morning skate.

"There would (have to) be a good reason if something happens before," Tatar said. "Obviously that would be not everything's OK there, so I would probably agree with the people here — why we should go there if something is not good? Hopefully nothing will happen and I think everything's in good hands." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Quoted

"A lot of crazy people running around in the world today. It's not only in Russia."

Jakub Voracek of the Czech Republic and the Philadelphia Flyers

Snowboard cross

Injury puts Ricker repeat in doubt

Defending Olympic snowboard cross champion Maelle Ricker needs surgery after suffering a wrist injury Tuesday.

The West Vancouver, B.C., native was injured during pre-Olympic training, putting her appearance at next month's Winter Games in Sochi in doubt.

Steven Hills, Canada Snowboard's executive director, couldn't say whether or not the injury was a break or fracture.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

International watchdog. Russia condemned for treatment of journalists

An international journalism watchdog on Tuesday criticized Russian authorities for restricting news coverage of preparations for the Sochi Olympics.

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists detailed in a report how Russian and international journalists have been harassed and prevented from covering sensitive stories in Sochi such as the abuse of migrant workers and environmental issues.

Successful survey

A majority of Canadians equate men's hockey gold with success at next month's Sochi Olympics, a new poll suggests.

- Nearly three-quarters of those surveyed in the Harris/Decima poll said Canada winning gold in men's hockey is "important in determining the success of the Games."

- But even more say they view avoiding security threats as the most important measure of whether the Sochi Olympics are a success.

73%

OLYMPIC SUCCESS = CANADA WINNING GOLD IN MEN'S HOCKEY

83%

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The report documented how Russian state-controlled media have been ignoring critical issues while few local journalists working for independent news outlets faced a campaign of smear and harassment. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



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2014 Toyota Highlander

Review. Building on good engines and solid street cred with more style and room

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

If you're wondering why minivan sales have been in steady free-fall for the past few years, it's partially because of vehicles such as the Toyota Highlander.

When it arrived for the 2002 model year, the Indiana-built Highlander was one of the initial part-wagon, part-sport utility vehicle models on the market. This so-called "crossover" borrowed its platform and basic running gear from the Toyota Camry, but added available all-wheel-drive and an occasional-use third-row seat to the mix a couple of years later. By then, the Highlander had become one of the most popular Toyotas on the market.

If there was a knock against the Highlander, it was that the vehicle's anonymous styling actually made it difficult to identify, even up close. That has now been rectified with the installation of one of the Toyota family's distinctive trapezoid-style grilles that quite honestly looks better on certain models than others.

That also goes for the cabin that is significantly roomier, thanks to some clever repackaging and a 15-centimetre wider body. That translates into a 9.5-centimetre wider interior, which is enough to provide space for three people for the third row seat in what had previously been a two-person affair. The Highlander now seats up to eight passengers.

Third-row access has been enhanced since the second-row bench (or optional dual high-back bucket seats) offer 7.6 centimetres of fore and aft travel. Both second- and third-row benches are split 60:40 for maximum stowage versatility. However when in full use, the area behind the third row has been enlarged by 34 per cent. Loading the cargo area can be accomplished with either the liftgate raised or with the optional flip-up rear glass raised.

The rest of the interior has been appropriately dressed-up with added soft-touch material covering the instrument panel plus new premium fabrics and faux wood trim on up-level trims. Powertrain options carry over unaltered from 2013 and vary according to need and your desire to minimize fuel consumption. The starting point is a 185-horsepower 2.7-litre four-cylinder, while a 270-horsepower 3.5-litre V6 is optional. Each is connected to a six-speed automatic

2014 Toyota Highlander

- **Type.** Four-door, front/all-wheel-drive, eight-person wagon
- **Engines (hp).** 2.7-litre DOHC I4 (185); 3.5-litre DOHC V6 (270); 3.5-litre V6 with front and rear electric motors (280)
- **Transmissions.** Six speed auto
- **Base price (incl. destination).** \$33,400

Design

The Highlander projects more aggressiveness, but not to the degree that you would confuse it for an off-road-oriented 4Runner or king-size Sequoia wagon. The rest of the body from the hood to the liftgate is more shapely and correctly conveys the sense that the Highlander is a quality piece of work.

Compare



1 Chevrolet Traverse
Base price: \$35,000



2 Mitsubishi Outlander
Base price: \$27,700

Fuel economy

At 10.4 l/100 km in the city and 7.3 on the highway, the front-wheel-drive-only four-cylinder has lower fuel consumption than the all-wheel-drive V6 and allows Toyota to peg the base price at \$33,400, including destination charges.

transmission.

The thriftiest of the bunch is the all-wheel-drive Highlander Hybrid that uses a 231-horsepower 3.5-litre V6 combined with front and rear electric motors to generate 280 combined horsepower. This option, which is mated to a continuously variable transmission, is rated at 6.6 l/100 km in the city and 7.3 on the highway, compared to 12.6/8.7 for AWD-V6 Highlanders. Toyota continues to maintain a three-trim strat-

egy for the Highlander. Base front-wheel-drive models cover most of basics and include heated side mirrors and dual-zone climate control.

Base V6 versions add a backup camera, power rear liftgate, eight-way power driver's seat and a 15.5-centimetre touchscreen for communications and infotainment services.

The top-level V6 Limited is gussied up with tri-zone climate control, perforated leather-covered seats (heated

in front) and an Premium JBL audio system/navigation combo. The Highlander Hybrid can also be had in three trim levels, with prices ranging from \$45,000 for the Standard Package, up to \$54,000 for the Limited.

Whichever model you choose, the latest Highlander adds more style, comfort and spaciousness, which are features that ultimately lead to a more satisfying experience for drivers and passengers.

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Equus Bass 770 allows fans to dream

\$250K US price tag.

Anonymous passionate millionaire built 100 of these gems and the aesthetically pleasing model surprised many at the Detroit Auto Show



AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca



The interior of this dream car is a beautiful blend of classic and modern.



The body of the Equus Automotive pays homage to the old Ford Mustang Fastback. EQUUS AUTOMOTIVE

By the time Equus Automotive took the stage at the 2014 auto show in Detroit, the press crowd had thinned out appreciably. Getting slot number 32 on a two-day press conference schedule will do that to anyone, especially to an automaker hardly anyone has ever heard of before.

But Equus Automotive managed to make a bit of a buzz at Detroit by the best way possible — by introducing an exciting automobile, and one from left field so to speak.

The Equus Bass 770 was touted as the quintessential

American Luxury GT. Its overall shape pays obvious homage to the Ford Mustang Fastback, circa 1969, while the front grille and headlight design seems to channel the vibe of the Plymouth GTX or Plymouth Roadrunner, circa 1971.

It has a 640-hp V8 from General Motors, and lots of aluminum construction to keep the weight down. Not surprisingly, it accelerates real good and tops-out at over 200 mph (321 km/hr). If you want a totally modern car under a body inspired by the golden age of American pony cars,

this is your ride — as long as you can plunk down the US\$250,000 asking price.

The 25 employees at the Equus factory in Rochester Hills, Michigan, can build about 100 cars a year. So far 20 orders have been placed, all from overseas customers.

Race driver Ian James is the spokesman and ambassador for Equus; he noted the company is owned and bankrolled by a European businessman who has a passion for classic muscle cars but wishes to remain behind the scenes.

I find it fascinating how

these wealthy “car guys” keep doing this — imagining their perfect ride and then setting up a company to build a small number of them. Why don’t they just build one from scratch for themselves and forget about all these tooling and development costs?

I guess having a custom-built car is one thing, but having it come to life via a genuine car company, and then have other people confirm your aesthetic by buying some examples, is a level or two better on whatever scale they operate on.

It can’t be for business reasons. History has shown that when relatively small companies tool up to build limited-production high-end cars, things tend to go real-bad real-fast in the accounting department. They’re up against very high production and design costs, a very limited and fickle market, and not much room for error.

You only had to look at the Detroit press conference held immediately before the Equus event. Henry Fisker’s dream to build the Fisker Karma plug-in hybrid went bank-

rupt this year. VL Automotive, co-founded by industry veteran Bob Lutz, is taking those beautiful but suddenly not-worth-so-much Karma bodies and reformulating them with Corvette V8 engines — basically the same engines in the Equus Bass 770.

But you gotta love guys like Henry Fisker, Malcolm Brickland, Giotto Bizzarini, Alejandro de Tomaso, etc., as well as that unnamed guy behind the Equus Bass 770. They all brought, or bring, passion, interesting stuff, and colour to the automotive landscape.

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JIL
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A good battery can make the difference between getting to work on a cold morning, or sitting in your driveway waiting for a boost. A technology called absorbed glass mat, or AGM, can help improve its performance. That's an important consideration, since the battery does more than just start your car.

"The charging system can't keep up with all the

demands that you place on the vehicle," says Sergio Marsili, senior buyer for automotive batteries at Canadian Tire. "You have the heater, the air conditioning, the heated seats, headlights, the radio. Some cars have as many as fifty computers in them that need to be powered.

"On an older car, you could jump-start your bat-

tery and drive for a few hours, because there were very few electronics in the car. Today, if you have a broken battery, jump-starting it might get you started, but two minutes down the road it may stall again, because it needs that power from the battery."

Car batteries make electricity through a chemical reaction between elec-

trodes, usually made of lead, and a liquid electrolyte, usually sulphuric acid—which is why they're called lead-acid batteries.

In an AGM battery, there's a fiberglass mat between the electrodes, which holds the electrolyte like a sponge. "There's no free-flowing liquid, so nothing leaks out or is sloshing around in there, and the electrolyte is suspended in these glass mats under very tight compression," Marsili says. "The benefit is that the battery charges faster, even in cold temperatures, and it's always at a higher state of charge than a regular battery might be."

Most car batteries provide a lot of power in a short burst when starting, and then they recharge. They're not designed for deep discharges, such as when you leave your headlights on or run electronic features with the engine off, but AGM batteries can better tolerate it. Because they're tightly packed inside, they're also less likely to be affected by vibration, such as if you

To note

- **Maintenance.** The charging system doesn't run all the time on many new vehicles, to improve fuel efficiency, so a well-maintained battery is even more important.

- **Check up checklist.** A battery inspection should include checking the cables and cleaning any corrosion off the terminals.

- **Remember.** Constant short trips are hard on your battery, because it doesn't have a chance to fully charge.

drive a lot on rough roads.

Once a battery's about three years old, it should be checked by a technician before each winter. "About one-third of customers replace their batteries proactively, while the other two-thirds wait for it to fail," Marsili says. "There's nothing more frustrating than a dead battery."



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More McQueen

For many people, actor/racer Steve McQueen has yet to be topped as the coolest cat who ever lit up the screen. And that includes Sean Connery, Paul Newman, James Garner and any of the current crop of heartthrobs. Sonic Editions, a company that specializes in all kinds of classic images, offers limited-edition Steve McQueen photographs from the Michael Ochs Archives in Los Angeles, Calif. Ochs took most of the pictures back in 1971 when McQueen was directing and starring in his racing movie entitled "Le Mans". Each of the prints is produced on high-grade Fujicolor Crystal Archive paper and comes professionally framed. Order your McQueen copy starting at \$120 US for an 11- x 14-inch print (up to \$380 US for the 24- x 30-inch version) from soniceditions.com.



Jeeps for tots

It seems as though Chrysler's Jeep division is out to reel in prospective buyers almost as soon as they're born, or at least convince their parents to get one. Among Jeep World's wide range of accessories is its line of baby strollers, including this neat three-wheel Jeep Adventure Jogging Stroller. It features the kind of accessories you would find or appreciate on an actual Jeep, including a shock-absorber suspension, multi-position reclining seat, height-adjustable steering handles, cup holders, stowage basket and five-point safety harness. Also included is what's called an iBaby sound system for connecting your portable audio device. The Jeep Adventure Jogging Stroller rolls on 26-centimetre pneumatic tires and has a 27-kilogram capacity. Buy one for \$250 US from jeepworld.com.



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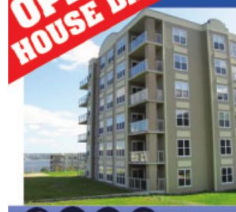
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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

You may dream of starting from scratch some place new but deep down you know it isn't going to happen. Focus on making the best of where you are and what you have got.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

You may be determined to discover the truth about something you believe others have been covering up but don't start reading fanciful stuff into situations that are really quite normal.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

A friendship that has been on a downward spiral will pick up again as from today. You will have to accept that in certain areas you are and always will have different points of view.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

What you say and do now will determine the level of material and professional success you will enjoy over the next few months. Don't say and do what you think will please those in positions of power. Please yourself first.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Your aims may seem impractical to some but so what? The approaching new moon will give you a head start on your rivals and no matter how far behind you may be, you will soon be ahead of the pack.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Don't fret about how much something is going to cost you. If it is really what you want to be doing then just get on and do it and worry about the financial considerations later.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Romantic relationships are well starred today. Let the object of your affection know that they are, always have been, and always will be number one in your heart. If you do, the next few days will be extra special.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

If your daily routine is too demanding, maybe it's time you did something about it. However, because the changes you make this week are likely to become permanent, make sure you really want them.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Why are you not getting what you want out of life? If you are honest, you will admit it is because you are spending too much time on things of minor importance. Use your talents!

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Help loved ones feel as good about themselves as you feel about yourself. That may be no easy task but it must be done because happiness at home is essential to other things.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

The things you think about today are the things you will be doing tomorrow and the day after that, no matter how outrageous some of your thoughts may be!

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

Listen to advice and don't be afraid to act on what you hear. Not everyone is trying to trick you or steal from you, so play down your suspicions and play up to the kind of important people who can help you.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

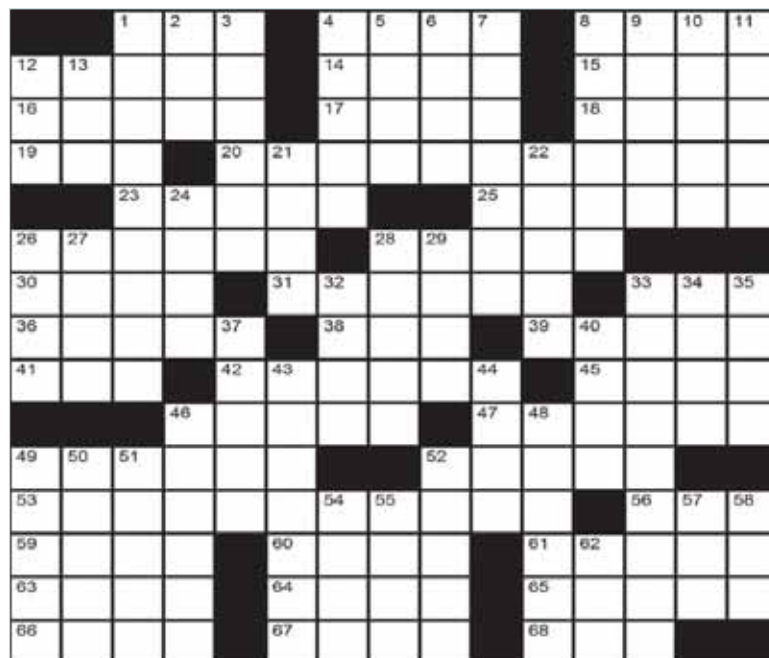
The last four clues were omitted from yesterday's puzzle. We apologize for the inconvenience. Visit metronews.ca/missingclues.

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

Across

- Chitchat
- Magician's prop
- "Shoot!"
- Nickname of Prince Charles' first bride: 2 wds.
- Wing-shaped
- "Beach" by Martha & The Muffins
- Trunk
- Doubled Doris Day song word
- Transport by ocean
- Whistle blower?
- Ottawa-born star-of-the-slopes/Olympian: 2 wds.
- Top-tiered star's spot
- Health care professionals
- Turn the key and open
- Bobby Hull's son
- Get ready for the trip
- Detective
- Shortened home
- Unflappable
- Legendary boxing surname
- Area near Montreal, The South
- Languish
- Former Canadian department store
- Not much, just
- Fashion retailer Michelle Obama



likes, __

- Charge in the court
- Quebec Premier, Pauline
- Embellishments-less
- Rural-esque region of Winnipeg
- Enshrouded
- Emptiness
- Ms. Peeples'

- Figure of speech
- Rick's movie beloved
- Eye part
- Peter of Herman's Hermits
- Religious realm
- Mention
- Mr. Byrnes of "77 Sunset Strip"
- Arctic hunting

- bird which is NWT's official bird
- Dates not as ancient as BCs
- It describes Jaime Sommers
- "Hmmm, I ___ aware of that."
- Baldwin brother
- Not
- 1987 movie in which Dan Aykroyd

- starred as classic TV character Sgt. Joe Friday
- Sahara
- Throbs
- Big river in Europe
- Slangy negatives
- Geography abbr.
- Cultivate
- Questions
- Ms. Buzz of "Laugh-In", and

- others
- Tricky Norse deity
- daisy
- Berkus, Oprah protegee
- Bruce Greenwood film, "Eight ___" (2006)
- Total
- Tardy
- Movie with a big Bryan Adams hit, "___: Prince of Thieves" (1991)
- Country's Mr. Church
- Paving+stone
- Mr. B. DeMille
- "Well, ___ known that..." (Things would be different now if...)
- Particular poison
- Barn's pal
- Musician Marc
- Chuck Berry title song lady
- Christine of Fleetwood Mac
- '60s tune: "You Really Got ___ on Me"
- Lift
- Western movie search party
- iPhone's voice-activated helper
- Serve at the restaurant
- Highway 'home'
- Tint
- Mr. Stewart

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Today

-7°/-12°

3-5cm of snow

90%

Thursday

-7°/-8°

Partly cloudy

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